Transit and storage loss of foodgrains

†445. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1588 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the issue of adopting any other method for fixing responsibility for setting up reliable mobile weighing bridges and in the matter of transit losses has been settled between FCI and the Railways;

(b) if so, the final outcomes thereof; and

(c) in what way the FCI propose to minimise its transit and storage losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The FCI has taken the following steps to reduce storage and transit losses:—

(a) Adoption of 50 kg. packing in a phased manner to avoid use of hooks.

(b) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, ensuring regular stock verification etc.

(c) Encouraging double line machine stitching of bags.

(d) Periodical prophylactic and curative treatment of stocks as prescribed.

(e) Streamlining of procedure and documentation for improving the transparency and accountability in operations at each level.

(f) Special squad checking at selected railheads trans-shipment and destination/dispatch centres.

(g) Identification of vulnerable points.

(h) Fixation of responsibility after undertaking investigation and recovery of the losses wherever called for after following the prescribed procedures as per Staff Regulations.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(i) Inspection of depots by senior officers of Headquarters, Zonal Managers/Senior Regional Managers/District Managers.

(j) Inspection of weighbridges.

(k) Improvement in size and quality of gunnies.

(I) Three-tier system of audit *i.e.* internal/statutory and CAG.

(m) Maintaining priority list for issue of stocks observing the FIFO principle.

(n) Proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue.

(o) Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.

(p) Improvement in dunnage material.

The Department of Food & Public Distribution of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution is considering appointment of RITES as consultant to do a norms study on "Rail Transit Losses". In the terms of references by RITES, it has also been proposed to include a study on the possibility of "in-motion Wagon-Weighbridges" by the Railways at important sidings/goodsheds to assess the weight of foodgrains loaded and to give a Railway Receipt accordingly.

Supervision of PDS in Orissa

446. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Team has visited various parts of Orissa to supervise proper functioning of the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the areas visited by the Team, shortcoming detected and ,the action taken to help the State to streamline the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Team which visited Sonepur, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa to review the functioning of